

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An information device, comprising:

means for storing an encrypted content whose use requires a license;

means for storing the license, the license including grouped device identification information for grouping and identifying a plurality of information devices that includes the information device, the plurality of information devices being authorized to decrypt the encrypted content;

means for storing user data including (a) the grouped device identification information for grouping and identifying a plurality of information devices that includes the information device and whose information devices are configured to decrypt the encrypted content, (b) ~~key information for decrypting the encrypted content and which is commonly provided to a device group configured to include the plurality of~~ that includes the plurality of information devices, and (c) a group identifier provided to the device group, wherein the means for storing the user data stores the grouped device identification information and the key information together with the group identifier; and

means for ~~performing a process of~~ reading out the grouped device identification information from the license, for reading out the key information from the user data based on the grouped device identification information, and for decrypting the encrypted content, based on the ~~license and the user data~~ key information.

2. (Currently Amended) The information device according to claim 1, wherein the means for storing the encrypted content associates license identification information for identifying the license to the encrypted content, ~~and the means for storing the license stores~~

~~the license, which includes~~ including the license identification information and the grouped device identification information.

3. (Currently Amended) The information device according to claim 2, wherein  
the means for reading out ~~performing~~ reads out the license identification information  
~~associated to the encrypted content, which is requested to be replayed from the means for~~  
~~storing the content,~~  
~~the means for performing reads out~~ the grouped device identification information [[,]]  
~~which is associated with the read license identification information from the means for~~  
~~storing the license, and~~  
~~the means for performing reads out~~ the key information is associated with the read  
grouped device identification information, ~~and the means for performing decrypts the~~  
~~encrypted content stored in the means for storing the content, using the read key information.~~

4. (Previously Presented) The information device according to claim 1, further  
comprising:  
means for requesting an information server to register the device group in the  
information server.

5. (Currently Amended) The information device according to claim 4, further  
comprising:  
means for requesting the information server to register the information device ~~as an~~  
~~object configured to be serviced~~, and to submit the grouped device identification information  
and the key information to the information device.

6. (Currently Amended) The information device according to claim 4, further comprising:

means for storing unique device identification information for identifying the information device from other information devices structurally similar to the information device; and

means for requesting the information server to register in the information server the unique device identification information ~~stored in the means for storing the unique device identification information.~~

7. (Previously Presented) The information device according to claim 6, further comprising:

means for producing the unique device identification information.

8. (Currently Amended) The information device according to claim 6, further comprising:

means for requesting the information server to delete from the information server the ~~registered~~ unique device identification information ~~in the information server.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The information device according to claim 1, wherein ~~the means for storing the user data stores the group identifier, which is provided to the device group, which is a group that~~ includes a plurality of information devices owned by one user.

10. (Currently Amended) The information device according to claim 1, wherein ~~the means for storing the user data stores the key information, which~~ corresponds to a device node key allocated to the device group, which is a ~~device~~ node in a bottom layer

among a plurality of node keys in a hierarchical tree structure, wherein each of the node keys is encrypted and corresponds to a different node in the hierarchical tree structure, which branches off from a top layer to the bottom layer,

~~the means for storing the content~~ stores the encrypted content, ~~which~~ is multiply encrypted by each ~~node key of the plurality~~ of the node keys on a path in the hierarchical tree structure from the device node key to a root key, the root key being a node key in the top layer of the hierarchical tree structure, and

the means for ~~performing~~ reading out sequentially decrypts each of the node keys key on the path from the bottom layer to the top layer in the hierarchical tree structure, using the key information as the device node key to obtain the root key, and then decrypts the encrypted content by using the obtained root key.

11. (Currently Amended) The information device according to claim 10, wherein ~~the means for storing the content~~ stores the encrypted content, ~~which~~ is encrypted by a content key that is encrypted by the root key, and

the means for ~~performing~~ reading out decrypts the content key by using the root key, and then decrypts the encrypted content using the decrypted content key.

12. (Currently Amended) The information device according to claim 1, wherein ~~the means for storing the content~~ stores the encrypted content, ~~which~~ includes at least one of text data, still image data, moving image data, or voice data.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~An information server configured to enable an encrypted content to be used,~~ the information server, comprising:

~~means for associating information about a device group to which an information device configured to decrypt the encrypted content belongs and a group identifier and registering the information according to a group registration request from the information device, the device group configured to include a plurality of information devices; and~~

means for registering ~~[[the]]~~ one of a plurality of information devices ~~device as an object configured to be serviced,~~ according to a service registration request from the one of the information devices, for associating grouped device identification information ~~that groups and identifies the plurality of the information devices,~~ and key information for ~~decrypting the encrypted content to a~~ ~~[[the]]~~ group identifier, ~~[[and]]~~ for registering the grouped device identification information and the key information, and for providing the grouped device identification information and the key information to all information devices in ~~[[the]]~~ a device group including the plurality of information devices, the grouped device identification information grouping and identifying the plurality of information devices, the key information associated with an encrypted content;

means for receiving a license request from the one of the information devices, the license request including the grouped device identification information; and

means for determining whether to charge for providing a license from the information server, based on whether the grouped device identification information is registered by the means for registering.

14. (Currently Amended) The information server according to claim 13, further comprising:

means for extracting device identification information that identifies the one of the information devices ~~device~~ from a device registration request from the one of the information devices, for associating the device identification information with the group identifier,

and for registering the device identification information according to the device registration request.

15. (Currently Amended) The information server according to claim 14, wherein the means for extracting refuses a device registration request from a new information device belonging to the device group, after a number of the information devices ~~that correspond to device identification information that is registered~~ in the device group reaches a predetermined number.

16. (Currently Amended) The information server according to claim 14, wherein the means for extracting deletes the device identification information, which is specified by a device registration deletion request from the one of the information ~~device~~ devices.

17. (Currently Amended) The information server according to claim 13, further comprising:

means for providing ~~[[a]]~~ the license specified by ~~[[a]]~~ the license request ~~from an information device of the plurality of the information devices~~ to the one of the information devices ~~device that requested the license and~~ according to the license request; and

means for extracting the grouped device identification information from the license request ~~to judge whether the extracted grouped device identification information is registered by the means for registering~~, and for determining whether to charge for providing the license from the means for providing, based on whether the extracted grouped device identification information is registered by the means for registering depending upon the judgment.

18. (Currently Amended) The information server according to claim 13, wherein ~~the means for associating associates information about the device group, which is a group that~~ includes a plurality of information devices owned by one user.

19. (Currently Amended) An information processing system, comprising:  
an information server ~~configured to enable an encrypted content to be used;~~ and  
an information device configured as a client of the information server and to receive a service from the information server through communication lines, wherein

the information server includes ~~means for associating information about a device group to which the information device, which is configured to decrypt the encrypted content, belongs and a group identifier and registering the information according to a group registration request from the information device, the device group configured to include a plurality of information devices; and~~ means for registering the information device as an object configured to be serviced, according to a service registration request from the information device, for associating grouped device identification information ~~that groups and identifies the plurality of the information devices,~~ and key information ~~for decrypting the encrypted content to a [[the]] group identifier, [[and]] for registering the grouped device identification information and the key information, and for providing the grouped device identification information and the key information to all information devices in [[the]] a device group,~~ the grouped device identification information grouping and identifying a plurality of the information devices including the information device, the key information associated with an encrypted content, and

the information device includes

means for storing the encrypted content;

means for storing a license, the license including the grouped device identification information;

means for storing user data that includes the grouped device identification information and the key information, which are provided from the information server, and the group identifier, the means for storing the user data storing the grouped device identification information and the key information together with the group identifier; and

means for reading out the grouped device identification information from the license, for reading out the key information from the user data based on the grouped device identification information, and for decrypting the encrypted content stored in the means for storing the content, based on the key information ~~license and the user data.~~

20. (Currently Amended) An information processing method, comprising:

storing an encrypted content and a license in an information device, the license including grouped device identification information that groups and identifies a plurality of information devices that includes the information device, the information devices being authorized to decrypt the encrypted content;

storing user data including (a) the grouped device identification information ~~that groups and identifies a plurality of information devices that includes the information device and whose information devices are configured to decrypt the encrypted content,~~ (b) key information ~~for decrypting the encrypted content and which is~~ commonly provided to a device group ~~that includes the plurality of~~ that includes the plurality of information devices, and (c) a group identifier provided to the device group, wherein the grouped device identification information and the key information are stored together with the group identifier;



reading out, with a processor of the information device, the grouped device identification information from the license;  
reading out, with the processor, the key information from the user data based on the grouped device identification information; and  
decrypting the encrypted content with the processor, based on ~~the license, the grouped device identification information,~~ and the key information.

21-22. (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended) An information device, comprising:  
a first memory configured to store an encrypted content whose use requires a license;  
a second memory configured to store the license, the license including grouped device identification information for grouping and identifying a plurality of information devices that includes the information device, the plurality of information devices being authorized to decrypt the encrypted content;

a third memory configured to store user data including (a) the grouped device identification information for grouping and identifying a plurality of information devices that includes the information device, the information devices being configured to decrypt the encrypted content, (b) ~~key information for decrypting the encrypted content and which is commonly provided to a device group configured to include the plurality of~~ that includes the plurality of information devices, and (c) a group identifier provided to the device group, wherein the third memory is further configured to store the grouped device identification information and the key information together with the group identifier; and

a processor configured to read out the grouped device identification information from the license, read out the key information from the user data based on the grouped device

identification information, and decrypt ~~perform a process of decrypting~~ the encrypted content  
[[,]] based on the ~~license and the user data~~ key information.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~An information server configured to enable an encrypted content to be used,~~ the information server, comprising:

~~a first processor configured to associate a group identifier and information about a device group to which an information device configured to decrypt the encrypted content belongs and to register the information according to a group registration request from the information device, the device group configured to include a plurality of information devices;~~  
and

a ~~second~~ processor configured to register ~~[[the]]~~ one of a plurality of information ~~devices~~ device as an object configured to be serviced, according to a service registration request from the one of the information ~~device~~ devices, to associate grouped device identification information ~~that groups and identifies the plurality of information devices,~~ and key information ~~for decrypting the encrypted content~~ to a ~~a~~ [[the]] group identifier, ~~[[and]]~~ to register the grouped device identification information and the key information, and to provide the grouped device identification information and the key information to all information devices in ~~[[the]]~~ a device group including the plurality of information devices, the grouped device identification information grouping and identifying the plurality of information devices, the key information associated with an encrypted content;

an interface configured to receive a license request from the one of the information devices, the license request including the grouped device identification information; and

a CPU configured to determine whether to charge for providing a license from the information server, based on whether the grouped device identification information is registered by the processor.

25. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for an information server, the method comprising:

~~associating a group identifier and information about a device group that includes an information device configured to decrypt encrypted content, according to a group registration request from the information device, the device group configured to include a plurality of information devices; registering the information, according to the group registration request from the information device;~~

registering ~~[[the]]~~ one of a plurality of information device ~~as an object configured to be serviced,~~ devices according to a service registration request from the one of the information device devices;

associating ~~[[the]]~~ a group identifier with grouped device identification information ~~that groups and identifies the plurality of the information devices,~~ and key information, the grouped device identification information grouping and identifying the plurality of information devices, the key information associated with an encrypted content for decrypting the encrypted content;

registering the grouped device identification information and the key information;  
[[and]]

providing the grouped device identification information and the key information to all information devices in ~~[[the]]~~ a device group including the plurality of information devices;

receiving a license request from the one of the information devices, the license request including the grouped device identification information; and

determining, with a processor, whether to charge for providing a license from the information server, based on whether the grouped device identification information is registered.